do so. The rules were, therefore, incomplete. The total receipts for 1091 in the Veterinary Hospital at Nagercoil amounted to about Rs. 208, and the total disbursements, to Rs. 2,491. The receipts came to only 1/12 of the expenditure. If treatment was given free, perhaps another sum of Rs. 500 has to be spent by the Government. But the ryots would thereby be greatly benefited.

Taking the statistics of the cases treated, the Member pointed out that the total number of animals treated during 1091, both in the hospital and in the circuit camps of the officers, was 1,013; or, a little less than 3 cases daily. That was not sufficient work for the existing staff attached to the hospital. If treatment was given free, there would be no necessity for increasing the staff. Only the allotment for the purchase of medicines would have to be slightly increased. As the ryots were poor, they could not afford to have cart bulls distinct from plough bulls. They used plough bulls also as cart bulls. The number of horses was very limited and the Government would not be losers by treating sick horses also free. In consideration of those points, the Member prayed that the treatment of animals in the Veterinary Hospital at Nagercoil might be made *free*.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

61. Want of grazing grounds in the town of Attungal.

Mr. K. N. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Attungal) represented that, since 1057, the town of Attungal had risen much in importance and that, though the T. I. C. was formed only four years ago, there had been more than 200 applications for building houses. The difficulty of feeding cows was being keenly felt. A few acres of land had, no doubt, been set apart for grazing purposes in the Chirayinkil taluk; but that was at the northernmost extremity bordering on the Quilon taluk. It might serve Navaikulam, Paravur and other places, but not Attungal. It was, therefore, imperative that grazing grounds should be set apart for the benefit of the cattle of the place.

Dewan.—The Peishkar has reported that there are no unregistered lands available for being reserved as grazing grounds at Attungal and that the only alternative is to acquire lands on payment of compensation. It may not be possible to *acquire* lands and reserve them as grazing grounds.

Member.—The T. I. C. has a balance of more than Rs. 2,000. This should suffice to purchase four or five acres of land which could be set apart as a pasture-ground.

To the Dewan's query whether the grazing ground was intended to benefit only the town and whether the T. I. C. funds could be utilised for the purpose, the Member said that he proposed the reservation of a grazing ground for the T. I. C. town of Attungal and not for the whole taluk and that, if a light fee was levied on every head of cattle grazing in the area to be set apart, the T. I. C. would have receipts under that head. He added that the people of the town would have no objection to the course proposed by him.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion of the Member will be considered.

62. Agriculture and Industries.

Mr. M. R. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the prosperity of a country depended upon the development of agriculture and industries and that the attention paid to the subject in Travancore was not adequate. It was more than 8 years since the Department of Agriculture was organised in Travancore. The expenditure incurred on the department in 1091 was Rs. 76,440, which worked only to ·5 per cent of the total revenue of the State. That sum could not be regarded as sufficient. The cultivation of the chief produce in the State, namely, paddy and cocoanut, did not show any signs of expansion or improvement with the increase of population. The people depended upon Burma and other foreign countries for the supply of paddy to meet their requirements. The Member was of opinion that, if the wet lands in the State were cultivated on improved scientific

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methods, the whole of the paddy required for the State could be produced within the State itself. For imparting instruction in scientific cultivation, there were on technical institutes. That was a great drawback.

The Member then pointed out that the number of Elementary and Secondary School Leaving Certificate holders was increasing year by year, that the Government were not in a position to provide work for all of them and that they were wandering up and down the country without anything to do. It was the duty of the Government to find some work for those people. To meet the difficulties mentioned above, the Member made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) A Central Agricultural School should be opened in the State, like the one established at Hibbal in the Mysore State.

(2) 25 persons should be trained in the school, 15 selected from the Education Department and 10 from outside.

(3) A village school should be opened in each taluk and those who were trained in the Central School should be appointed teachers in the village schools.

(4) Admission in the village schools should be given only to those who passed the fourth class in the Elementary Schools.

(5) In the village schools, language and arithmetic should be taught for a few hours in the day, the major portion of the time being devoted to the teaching of agriculture on scientific lines.

(6) There should be an understanding that only those who passed from the Village Agricultural Schools would be appointed teachers up to Class IV in the Elementary Schools.

(7) Rural schools would, in course of time, be started by the people themselves. The Government would then have to sanction only grants-in-aid for such schools.

(8) All lands fit for paddy cultivation including those situated within Reserves should be registered in the names of the people.

(9) Canals and tanks should be improved and restored. New ones should be opened, wherever necessary.

The special attention of the Government should be directed to the Antha karazhi at Shertallai. If a sluice were opened for closing and opening the bar at proper intervals, it would prevent the entrance of brackish water into 1,00,000 *paras* of wet lands which could be profitably cultivated.

(10) Loans should be given to the ryots for agricultural purposes and agricultural implements and seeds should be given to the agriculturists on credit.

(11) Grazing grounds should be reserved in all taluks.

(12) Agricultural Societies should be formed.

(13) Agricultural Exhibitions should be conducted. Proper encouragement should be given to the Exhibitions started by private agencies.

Regarding the industrial side of his subject, the Member said that there were many industries which could be profitably started in the State, such as the cultivation of ganja, tobacco, etc., that expert advice might be obtained by sending persons to foreign countries at the expense of the Government, and that the Government should encourage the manufacture of paper, matches, etc. It was even desirable that the Government should start some of the above industries, as it would take some time before the people took up such industries on their own initiative. Along with the Industrial Survey, an Economic Survey should also be conducted and information regarding the capital to be invested on each industry, the probable return therefrom and the nature of the industries the people could take up should also be gathered. In conclusion, the Member suggested that the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies might be asked to co-operate with the Special Officer for Industrial Survey, as the latter did not know the language of the country.

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Mr. M. N. Narayana Menon (Member, Kottayam taluk) also spoke at length on the same subject. To improve the condition of the agriculturists, the Member said that there were only two ways, namely, extensive and intensive cultivation. The amount spent by the Government on the Agricultural Department was inconsiderable when compared with the total revenue of the State. The paddy cultivated in the State could be valued at $2\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees and the people imported paddy to the value of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees per year for consumption. The total paddy consumed in the State was thus worth more than 4 crores of rupees. Dividing that amongst the total population in the State, the share per head was trifling.

The condition of the *punja* cultivators was depressing. Sufficient irrigational facilities were not afforded to them as to the ryots of South Travancore. In the case of the latter more than 80 lakhs of rupees had been spent on the Kodayar Project works. *Punja* cultivation was being conducted in respect of more than 2,00,000 acres of land. No help was rendered to the *punja* cultivators by the Government. Several canals could be restored and rendered useful to the agriculturists at moderate cost. Such were the Pallikonam canal, Mavelithodu and Vettikkattumukku-Muthantikon *thodu* in the Kottayam taluk. The Member suggested the appointment of an Agricultural Engineer under the Director of Agriculture.

He also made the following suggestions:—

(1) The power to take action under section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072, should be taken away from the Peishkars and vested in the Tahsildars, who should see to the proper construction of ring bunds, etc., before the 15th Thulam every year, when the lands were cultivated. The defaulters should be given deterrent punishment. The Tahsildars should also see that proper steps were taken for damming up water-ways so as to prevent brackish water from getting into *punja* lands.

(2) In connection with the Industrial Survey, the condition of the *punja* cultivators should be investigated. The report of Dr. Barker should specifically deal with the above point also.

(3) Village Boards should be established to meet the requirements of the village in the matter of roads, sanitation, etc. If necessary, the Boards might be empowered to impose a small tax.

(4) The Peishkars should be asked to tour about the interior parts of the country more often than they did at present. They should get first-hand information regarding the grievances of the ryots and should try to help the people as much as possible. Detailed information on the point should be mentioned in the Administration Reports.

(5) The cocoanut trees on the bunds of *punja* lands should not be treated as *poramboke* but should be registered in the names of the owners of those *punja* lands without the levy of any additional assessment thereon.

(6) Plots of lands should be selected by the Agricultural Department in places where *punja* cultivation was carried on largely and they should be scientifically cultivated by them so as to serve as a model to the ryots.

(7) Manure and agricultural implements should be sold to the ryots on the credit system.

(8) The working of the Agricultural Loans Regulation was not satisfactory. The Regulation should be so amended as to enable the ryots to get loans on easier terms.

(9) The Sinking Fund, the amounts in the Savings Banks and the Court deposit in Trivandrum should be transferred to the Co-operative Central Bank through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and should be utilized for the grant of loans to the Co-operative Societies.

(10) Agricultural Associations conducted on satisfactory lines should be given power to elect one member each to the Assembly.

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(11) Lands fit for cultivation in the Reserved forests should be registered in the names of the people.

(12) An Agricultural School should be established in the State.

(13) Agricultural Exhibitions should be held every year in connection with the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

(14) In connection with the Industrial Survey of the State, a Commission on the model of the Holland Commission should be appointed to investigate the whole question, including agricultural problems and the Commission should consist of Dr. Barker, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and one or two non-official gentlemen.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

83. Agriculture end Trade.

Mr. Kochitti Kurien (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) said that Travancore was admirably suited for cultivation, but that the condition of the agriculturists was far from satisfactory. Firstly, in regard to *punja* cultivation, the Member said that the average *pattom* from *punja* lands did not exceed two to four *paras* of paddy once in two years. The assessment exceeded one *para* of paddy per *para* of wet land. So the *punja* cultivator had not much left for himself after paying the Government dues. In certain years, the crops entirely failed rendering the condition of the ryot miserable. Several persons had been completely ruined by cultivating *punja* lands; for, the brackish water from the sea and the backwaters found its way to the rivers making them useless for purposes of cultivation. Owing to these and other causes such as the overflow of water into the *punja* lands by tidal action, the cultivation of *punja* lands had become mostly unprofitable. The lands were not being cultivated yearly, although the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries was of opinion that, by taking proper measures, they could be cultivated annually and also made to yield ten times as at present.

The Member next examined the condition of *cherikal* cultivation and pointed out that the forest tracts where such cultivation was conducted became unproductive in course of time. In some cases, lands were left fallow for six or even ten years after one crop before they were cultivated. The Member thought that this was the reason for such tracts becoming *tharisu* lands. In *cherikal* lands fertile soil extended to a depth of 2 or 3 ft. from the surface. It was made more fertile by the admixture of decomposed matter in it. Since the shrubs and bushes growing above the soil took root beneath the soil, the fertile surface earth was not washed away even in heavy rain. But, when the soil was ploughed and the overgrowth cleared, the heavy *edavapathi* rains invariably washed away the surface soil and, consequently, the strata of unfertile earth below alone remained. In course of time, the surface soil completely disappeared, leaving the lower strata barren. To prevent such undesirable transformation of *cherikal* lands, the Member suggested that mud-walls should be erected round specified plots of *cherikal* lands and that proper *drains* should also be constructed to prevent earth from being washed away by the rains.

Regarding sugar-cane cultivation, the Member submitted that the average yield per acre was poor when compared with other countries. In Travancore, the *pattom* from an acre of ground cultivated with sugar-cane did not exceed thirty to fifty rupees. In Java and other countries, the yield from one acre cultivated with sugar-cane ranged from 650 to 1,000 rupees. In the Mysore State, the yield per acre rose as high as Rs. 1,000. Improved methods of cultivating sugar-cane and converting its juice into molasses, etc., could be profitably introduced in Travancore also as in Mysore.

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